

Erica S. Townsend, Ph.D.

Philadelphia, PA • ericat1128@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/erica-townsend

Summary

Ambitious and dedicated scientist with over 5 years of specialized experience in clinically relevant neuroscience research. Proven abilities to successfully communicate science to broad audiences and flexibly manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment. Eager to leverage extensive scientific knowledge and skills to contribute to ongoing advancements in clinical research and medical affairs.

Professional Experience

Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Postdoctoral Research Associate July 2025 – Present
Center for Substance Abuse Research

- Overseeing a team of researchers to facilitate successful launch of new projects utilizing advanced neuroscience research techniques to discover neural transmission relevant to neuropsychiatric disorders and chronic stress (e.g., Substance Use Disorder, OCD, as well as Parkinson's)
- Advising junior lab researchers through experimental design and data analysis; serving as a consultant for ongoing and early-stage research projects
- Finalizing three NIH-funded preclinical research projects and preparing manuscripts for publication in highly regarded scientific journals

Dartmouth College, Doctoral Researcher Aug 2020 – June 2025
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

- Executed more than 5 preclinical NIH-funded research projects investigating neural circuits underlying motivation and habit formation; earned 3 awards for research excellence and rigor
- Extensive experience presenting scientific data at more than 10 professional conferences and symposia (10+ posters, two symposium talks), in addition to regular (two to three times annually) project progress updates to colleagues and faculty
- Supervised a group of more than 15 undergraduate and graduate lab members and provided hands-on training and professional mentorship in experimental design and ethics, data collection and analysis, and wet lab techniques
- Established a novel behavioral data analysis procedure and launched a new cutting-edge neural recording technique, modernizing the lab's technical capabilities
- Published two first author peer-reviewed empirical articles in less than five years

Additional Experience

USA Brain Bee, Regional Coordinator Aug 2021 – June 2024
Upper Valley Chapter

- Trained a team of 30+ graduate students and faculty in communicating science to broad audiences to engage the local community in biomedical research and facilitate trust in science
- Organized a neuroscience showcase accessible to the public, including symposium lectures, poster presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and a trivia competition for high schoolers
- Secured nearly \$10k in funding annually and maintained relationships with donors
- Generated targeted presentations and resources for visits to semi-annual at local high schools

Awards and Honors

William M. Smith Promise Award in Brain Sciences June 2025
Dartmouth College

Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Research June 2024
Dartmouth College

Neukom Award July 2023
Neukom Institute for Computational Science at Dartmouth College

Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship July 2023
Dartmouth College

Outstanding Graduate Woman in Learning Award June 2022
Women in Learning; International Behavioral Neuroscience Society

Education

Dartmouth College Hanover, NH	
<i>Ph.D., Psychological and Brain Sciences</i>	April 2025
<i>M.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences</i>	June 2024
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA	
<i>B.S., Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude</i>	May 2020
<i>B.S., Psychology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	May 2020